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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please cancel Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6 (originally numbered Figs. 5, 6, 7 and 8).

### REMARKS

Claims 1 and 58-78 remain in this application. Claims 2-3 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 58-78 have been added. The specification has been amended to correct informalities noted by the Examiner in the Office Action dated January 14, 2004. Although these informalities were addressed in a response mailed October 31, 2005, it is unclear from the record whether the proposed amendments were entered. In addition, Figs. 3-6 have been cancelled, and the specification amended accordingly. The cancelled figures are not referred to in the specification, and are not needed to support claims 1 or 58-78. By these amendments, no new matter has been added.

Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6 were objected to as illegible. In view of the cancellation of these figures, these objections are now moot, and should therefore be withdrawn. The cancellation of Figs. 3-6 and the corresponding amendments to the specification also make moot the defects noted in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed November 18, 2005. The amendment should therefore be considered responsive, and be considered on its merits.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Claim 1 defines "adding sodium acetylide in excess of said sub-stoichiometric amount of alkali metal." This language is believed to be sufficiently definite. Support for the claimed steps may be found, for example, in the specification at page 56, line 1 to page 57, line 11. In particular, a sub-stoichiometric quantity of alkali metal (sodium) is reacted with a mixture of dichlorosilanes and trichlorosilanes, to bring about an increase in molecular weight and viscosity of a pre-ceramic polymer backbone while leaving a fraction of the chlorosilane sites unreacted. Following polymer condensation, excess sodium acetylide is added to react with the unreacted chlorosilane sites. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be sufficiently definite, while claims

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2-3 have been cancelled. These rejections should therefore be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited.

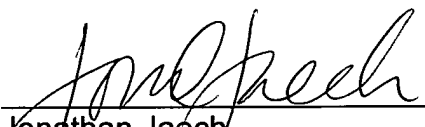
Claims 58-78 are also allowable. Support for the new claims may be found, among other places, at page 56, line 1 to page 57, line 11, and Examples 10-14 beginning on page 96.

To the extent it would be helpful to place this application in condition for allowance, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-3683.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 15, 2006

  
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